

Remarks

The Official Action allowed claims 4-11, objected to claims 3 and 31-34, and rejected claims 1, 2, 12-15, 19-24, 28 and 29. Applicant has canceled claims 1-2, 12, 21-24 and claim 28 and has amended claims 3, 13-15, 19 and 31-34.

Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of the claims 4 -11 and the Examiner's indication that claims 3 and 31-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 31 and 33 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims per the Examiner's suggestion. Applicant's intention is to merely place claims 3, 31 and 33 in independent form and not to narrow the scope of such claims. Applicant, however, has not rewritten claim 34 in independent form but instead has elected to make claim 34 dependent upon allowable independent claim 33. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 3-11 and 31-34.

35 USC 103 Claim Rejections (Clark/Lee)

The Official Action rejected claims 1-2, 12-14, 19-20 and 28-29 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatented over Clark et al (U.S. Patent No. 3,725,864) in view of Lee et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,937). Applicant has cancelled claims 1-2, 12 and 28 and has amended claims 13-14, 19 and 29. In particular, as a result of the present amendment, each of claims 13-14, 19-20 and 29 includes one of the allowable claims

31 and 33 as a base claim. Accordingly, each of the claims 13-14, 19-20 and 29 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claims 13-14, 19-20 and 29.

35 USC 103(a) Claim Rejections (Clark/Lee/Denning)

The Official Action rejected claim 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatented over Clark in view of Lee and Denning et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,187). Applicant has amended claim 15 to depend from allowable claim 33. Accordingly, claim 15 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 15.

35 USC 103(a) Claim Rejections (Clark/Lee/Kennedy)

The Official Action rejected claims 21-24 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatented over Clark in view of Lee and further in view of Kennedy et al (U.S. Patent No. 3,618,031). Applicant has cancelled claims 21-24.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action. Applicant submits that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested, and allowance of all remaining claims is earnestly solicited.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666. If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (503)439-8778 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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